

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

DESIGNATION REPORT - INDIVIDUAL SITE IN A DISTRICT

Site Name Redland Fruit and Spice Park

Designation No. 8204

Site Address 24801 S.W. 187th Avenue

Date of Filing 4/13/82

Date of Designation _____

Owner and Address Dade County, Department of Parks and Recreation, 50 S.W. 32nd Road
Miami, FL. 33129

Site Location - Legal description or district boundaries (see attached map):

Section 25, T. 56 S., R. 38 E. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$. (20 acres)

Dade County Historic Survey Findings:

Site received a rating of 2 in architecture,
1 in history and 1 in contextual significance.

Other Surveys: _____ H.A.B.S.

_____ Natl. Reg. _____ H.A.E.R.

Other: _____

Title Verification (attach copy): Book _____ Page No. _____ Deed Type _____

Current Zoning.(describe): AU/GP - agricultural use, government park
County park

Current Use (describe):

Park, horticultural garden

Current Condition (describe): Schoolhouse - excellent
Oolitic limestone house - excellent

Physical Description of Site (attach 1 or 2 photos):

The schoolhouse is located on a pedestrian path as you enter the park. A one-story frame building, the house has a hipped cedar shingle roof with deep eaves. The building has dropped siding with corner boards and is two bays across the smaller entrance facade with a center doorway and three bays deep. The windows are either two/two double hung sash or one/one with flat surrounds and pronounced sills. The entrance has double doors which contain contemporary jalousie windows. Surrounded by well-manicured vegetation and currently used as an office by the park, the Redland Schoolhouse is an early and well preserved example of a rural schoolhouse in Dade County.

The second structure of significance at the park is a one-story oolitic limestone faced frame house. Essentially, this house is a one-story gable end structure with a three bay front facade facing 187th Avenue that has an enclosed wood frame board and batten porch the full length of the entrance facade. Recently the house was gutted and re-constructed to its original appearance. Although most of the materials used for the new construction are new, note the asphalt roof, the general design and character of the building has been retained. The most significant remaining feature of the original building is the oolitic limestone facing. The original building was built as a frame

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance - Brief summary including documentary evidence that indicates the historical, architectural or archeological significance of the site.

The Redland Fruit and Spice Park is significant for several reasons. It contains several old structures, and it is also important for its horticultural features.

The tract of land which comprises the park, was part of the former homestead of Dan Roberts. Roberts donated some of his property to Dade County in 1907, but it was not until 1943 that action was undertaken to create a park, by Commissioner Preston B. Bird. Some additional land was purchased in 1946 and 1947, creating a park of twenty acres. Mary Heinlein was the park's first superintendent (1944-1959). She donated and planted approximately 700 to 800 fruit and spice trees during her tenure. Mrs. Heinlein also established the garden center and supplied botanical information on plant specimens to the University of Miami.

Statement of Significance (continued):

Dan Roberts had originally donated a portion of his property for the purpose of starting a school in the area. The first school building, which was opened in 1907, now serves as an office of the Fruit and Spice Park although it has been moved from its original site facing Coconut Palm Avenue.

Circa 1915 another structure was built on the property and leased to the Department of Agriculture. It was used as a research center and laboratory to find a cure for the citrus canker blight which had affected grove owners in the vicinity. During World War I, this building was used by the American Red Cross to roll bandages for wounded soldiers.

In 1922 this building was purchased by William Brodie and used as a private residence. In 1925 the house and surrounding property was sold by Brodie to a Miss Stuart who lived there with her sister. They operated a post office and candy kitchen out of a smaller building next to the road. In 1946 the parks system purchased the acre and

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

SEE CONTINUATION

Bibliographic References:

Unpublished Sources

_____, _____. "A Tribute to Preston B. Bird and Mary Heinlein," Dade County, Florida. Office of County Manager, _____, 1980.

_____, _____. (Board of County Commissioners). "Rambling through Dade County Parks." Miami, Florida. Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1945.

SEE CONTINUATION

Special Standards for Certificate of Appropriateness: The relocation of trees and routine landscaping required to maintain the park shall not require a Certificate of Appropriateness unless such work will alter the setting of either the schoolhouse or the oolitic limestone house.

CONTINUATION:

Continuation of Statement of Significance:

one half from Ruth and Fred Zinck who had owned it since 1943. The Zincks had added the limestone facing to the frame house in 1945. The Zincks also tore down the candy kitchen and used the material to build a garage behind the house. It is now used by the park as a storage area.

Today the Redland Fruit and Spice Park is one of the most unusual parks in the county system. Thanks to Mary Heinlein, the park hosts what is probably the largest variety of fruit-bearing trees in Dade County. Besides botanical and horticultural information, the park provides both residents and tourists with a unique opportunity to sample some of the more exotic produce grown anywhere.

Continuation of Bibliographic References:

Tallahassee, Florida. Department of State. Division of Archives, History and Records Management. Historical Sites Inventory, Dade County, July 5, 1972.

Taylor, Jean C. Lecture Series on "Redland." June 17, 1980.

Taylor, Jean C. "Redland District." Dade County, Florida. Personal Collection, Undated.

Published Sources

Smiley, Nixon. "Postman Was Abducted - Redland Lost Chance," The Miami Herald, December 21, 1968.